



Military Order of the Purple Heart Proudly Observes Hispanic Heritage Month

The Military Order of the Purple Heart is proud to recognize the period from September 15 through October 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month. During this period, we reflect on and pay tribute to the tremendous contributions and sacrifice that Latino-Americans have made throughout the history of our Nation and their service in our Armed Forces. Hispanics have played a vital role in the moments and movements that have shaped our country. Since before the Revolutionary War these men and women have shaped and strengthened our country, and during Hispanic American Heritage Month, we celebrate and recognize the achievements and contributions of these individuals.

Our country is one of the most diverse nations in the world, and America's diversity is a primary source of its strength. Collectively, Hispanic Americans represent more than five hundred years of history and the culture and traditions of twenty different nations. They form a vital part of the America's rich and diverse social fabric. Hispanic sons and daughters have never hesitated to defend and show their allegiance to this nation in many ways, but especially through military service.

The MOPH is particularly proud to salute the Order's Hispanic American Members, many of whom hold the highest leadership positions throughout the Order. Our own National Senior Vice

Commander William Nazario, and our National Adjutant Ernesto P. Hernandez III, are but two of the many examples who epitomize the many contributions made by our Latino and Hispanic brothers and sisters who continue to serve in peacetime as well as in war.

There have been more than 60 Hispanic American Medal of Honor recipients, dating back to the Civil War and continuing through Post 9/11 conflicts. In World War One, a young Mexican American Soldier, Private David Barkeley volunteered to scout out an enemy position by swimming across the Meuse River in France. Though Private Barkeley died that night, he was later awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic efforts, becoming the first Hispanic American Soldier to receive the award. Since then, men like Staff Sergeant Lucien Adams in World War II, Corporal Benito Martinez in the Korean War, and Master Sergeant Roy Benevidez in Vietnam were awarded the Medal of Honor for their extraordinary courage, honor, strength and skill that are prime examples of what Hispanic Americans have brought to our nation and to countless countries around the world as they have served in every American conflict since the Revolutionary War.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart is proud of the many contributions our Hispanic American Members have made to the Order and our nation, and the diversity of our Purple Heart recipient members reflects the character and strength of our nation as a whole.

Yours in Patriotism,
Robert Puskar
National Commander



Military Order of the Purple Heart | 703-642-5360 | www.purpleheart.org

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